Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-48 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 13, 18, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 33 and 36 being the independent claims. By entry of the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended the application to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78. This amendment is believed to introduce no new matter, and entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is respectfully believed that the present application is in condition for examination. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Michele A. Cimbala Attorney for Applicants

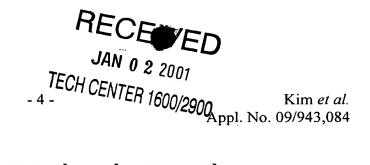
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SKGF Rev. 2/13/01





Version with markings to show changes made

At page 1, lines 6-7 have been deleted and a statement substituted therefore.